

4 means for inserting into the path state setup message a source routing option that lists
5 one or more network nodes along the selected path; and

6 means for inserting into the path state setup message one or more parameters that de-
7 fine a selected traffic flow that is to be associated with a test message for determining a la-
8 tency of the selected path.

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1 19.⁼⁹ (New) An apparatus as defined in claim 18 comprising:

2 means for listing each of the network nodes along the selected path in the source
3 routing option.

1 20.⁼¹⁰ (New) An apparatus as defined in claim 18 comprising:

2 means for rendering the path state setup message free from having a sender traffic
3 specifier.

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office action dated November 6, 2002.
All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and further exami-
nation of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-20 were added to better claim the invention.

Description of the Present Invention

Applicants' invention is directed to a technique for accurately determining the latency
of a selected path in a computer network. According to the inventive technique, a setup or
signaling protocol is modified in a novel manner to establish a path reservation state at each
intermediary node along the selected path. The path reservation state is associated with a
given traffic flow having predefined parameters. Once the path setup process is complete, a